

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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FM USMISSION USNATO

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 11928

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILI

SUBJECT: TRANSATLANTIC DIALOG

REFS: A) STATE 279073 DTG 220028ZNOV77; B) ROME 19303
DTG 251225ZNOV77; C) USNATO 11831 DTG 260924ZNOV77.

SUMMARY: BOTH UK AND FRENCH DCMS WERE RECEPTIVE TO POSSIBILITIES OF DCMS PARTICIPATING IN TRANSATLANTIC DIALOG (TAD) TOGETHER WITH CNAD. FRENCH, HOWEVER, WERE CLEARLY NEGATIVE CONCERNING A TAD ROLE FOR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY (AHC). UK AND FRENCH BOTH SUGGESTED THAT 2 DEC MEETING OF NADREPS MIGHT BE LIMITED TO ADMIRAL MAININI'S FORMAL REPORT WITH SUBSEQUENT NORTH AMERICAN (US AND CANADA) RESPONSE SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF 12 DEC IN A MEETING OF "REINFORCED NADREPS" (DCMS PLUS NADREPS). END SUMMARY.

1. US DCM (GLITMAN) AND US NADREP (HARVILL) MET WITH UK DCM (HOLMES), UK NADREP (KNIGHT) AND IEPG SECRETARY (CRAIG) OF UK. GLITMAN DREW ON REF A EMPHASIZING IT IS LIKELY THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS OF A POLITICAL NATURE TO BE RESOLVED IN THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAD.

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2. UK DCM NOTED THAT FRENCH RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON ITS POSSIBILITIES. UK DCM FEARED THAT DUTCH AND OTHERS WOULD ALSO BE OFFENDED AT MENTION OF A NEW ROLE FOR AHC SO SOON AFTER THE "ON CALL" STATUS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.

3. UK DCM STRESSED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE THE DCMS

INVOLVED, NOT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF AHC, BUT AS NATIONAL POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES OF AMBASSADORS. HE ASKED IF THE COUNCIL COULD NOT DESIGNATE DCMS TO ATTEND NADREP MEETINGS. UK DCM POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH SEE THE TAD AS A TECHNICAL PROBLEM, NOT POLITICAL. THE FRENCH AT THE 7-8 NOV MEETING OF STATE UNDERSECRETARIES WERE VERY FIRM IN THEIR POSITION ON WORKING PROBLEM IN NATO, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY, IN CNAD. UK WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE NEGATIVE ON HAVING A BODY ON CALL TO STEP IN WHEN POLITICAL PROBLEMS SURFACED, BUT HESITATED TO BUILD IN A PERMANENT BODY. HE SAW GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF ADOPTION OF SUBSTANCE OF US PROPOSAL IF IT WERE MODIFIED TO CALL FOR 2 DEC MEETING OF NADREPS TO HEAR REPORT AND A SUBSEQUENT MEETING THE WEEK OF 12 DEC OF DCMS AND NADREPS TO HEAR AND DISCUSS A NORTH AMERICAN RESPONSE.

4. SURPRISINGLY FR DCM (JESSEL) AND NADREP(JAMET) WERE NOT AWARE OF 2 DEC MEETING WITH MAININI AND JESSEL HAD ONLY GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED AT 7-8 NOV MEETING OF IEPG. FR DCM SAID THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, IN FRENCH VIEW, HAD A LIMITED CHARTER FOR INTEROPERABILITY MATTERS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE BROADENED FOR TAD. WITH REGARD TO REINFORCED NADREPS, FR NADREP SAID HE BELIEVED THERE WAS NO PRECEDENT FOR SUCH A MEETING AND SUGGESTED MATTER SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO NAC. JESSEL, HOWEVER, AGREED WITH GLITMAN THAT DCMS REPRESENT ENTIRE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING NADS AND COULD, AS SUCH, MEET WITH NADREPS.

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5. FR DCM SAID HE WOULD INFORM HIS AUTHORITIES OF DISCUSSION AND SEE WHAT THEIR REACTION WOULD BE. GLITMAN STRESSED THE NEED FOR MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AT SUCH AN EARLY STAGE IN THESE IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS.

6. TO RECAP OUR DISCUSSIONS, WE SEE A CLEAR RESISTANCE TO EXPANDING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AHC TO INCLUDE THE TAD, ESPECIALLY BY THE FRENCH. HOWEVER, ALL SEE A ROLE FOR AHC MEMBERS (DCMS) IN FACILITATING TAD. WE BELIEVE US CAN ACHIEVE ITS SUBSTANTIVE OBJECTIVES IF IT IS FLEXIBLE ON PROCEDURE. IN SUM, AHC, AS SUCH, MAY NOT PROVE SALABLE, BUT USE OF DCMS, AS SUCH, MAY BE ACCEPTABLE.

7. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD PROPOSE US DCM ATTEND 2 DEC MEETING ALONG WITH NADREP AND ADVISE OTHER DCMS OF OUR INTENT. WE PROPOSE THAT AT THAT MEETING DCM SUGGEST A MEETING OF DCMS AND NADREPS THE WEEK OF 12 DEC TO DISCUSS NORTH AMERICAN REPLY TO IEPG. WE FAVOR A WORDING ALONG THE LINES OF "DCMS ACTING AS SPECIAL NATIONAL ARMAMENT DIRECTOR

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REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS TRANSATLANTIC DIA-
LOG", BUT RECOGNIZE WE WILL NEED TO BE FLEXIBLE ON DESIGNA-
TIONS.

8. IF SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF INTEROPERABILITY ARISE LATER,
WE CAN SUGGEST THE AHC TACKLE THEM. IF THE FRENCH STRONGLY
OBJECT TO DCM ATTENDANCE AT 2 DEC MEETING, WE BELIEVE THE
US SHOULD AGREE TO LET THE NADREP RECEIVE THE REPORT. HOW-
EVER, WE SUGGEST NADREPS THEN PROPOSE A MEETING OF DCMS AND
NADREPS TO RECEIVE NORTH AMERICAN REPLY WEEK OF 12 DEC.

9. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE REQUESTED BY OOB, BRUSSELS, 1 DEC
77. BENNETT

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